

EXHIBIT 11

DATE 2/14/2013

SB 197

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE SENATE FWP COMMITTEE:

RE: SB 197 – An act creating an apprentice hunting certificate for persons who have not completed a hunter safety and education course.

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen Alliance hereby goes on record **STRONGLY OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- * Youth recruitment is an important endeavor, but **MUST** be accompanied with youth retention and that is accomplished with access to quality hunting areas of opportunity.
- * There are no assurances that mentors are actually qualified and capable of providing the level of supervision in regard to safety, outdoor skills, ethics, and sportsmen/landowner relations.
- * Disregards and marginalizes Montana's long-standing and highly respected hunter safety training program at a time when FW&P is trying to strengthen that program.
- * There is no evidence long-term involvement in ethical hunting will result from this program. There are several youth incentives in place now. Again, **access to quality hunting opportunities is the key!**
- * Nothing is shown to be taught other than shooting at some animal. This is **not what a true apprenticeship program is designed to do.**

Again, we most strongly state our **OPPOSITION** to SB 197.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group.

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| Vito Quatraro – Bozeman | 580-1130 |
| Joe Perry – Brady | 627-2369 |
| John Borgreen – Great Falls | 453-4273 |
| Sam Milodragovich – Butte | 490-2224 |
| Robert Wood – Hamilton | 531-5043 |
| JW Westman – Laurel | 633-2415 |

www.montanasportsmenalliance.com

www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com

P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840